

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 44 as set forth below, without acquiescence in the Office Action's reasons for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. A complete listing of the pending claims is provided below.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A system for reading a data item, comprising:  
means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item on a plurality of data storage devices;  
means for receiving a read request for said data item;  
means for initiating at least two read operation requests to at least two of said plurality of data storage devices in response to receiving said read request; and  
means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operations requests as projecting to produce a fastest response time.
29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising the means for canceling a second one of said at least two read operation requests.
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second one of said at least two read operation requests.
31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operation requests includes means for identifying said first one of said at least two read operation requests as having a first movement from one level of request queues to another.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operation requests includes means for identifying said first one of said at least two read operation requests as having a first retrieval of a copy of said data item from one of said plurality of data storage devices.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item includes means for mirroring said data item from a first one of said plurality of data storage devices to a second one of said plurality of data storage devices.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item includes means for maintaining said plurality of copies of said data item on a plurality of disk drives.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of reading a data item from a database, comprising:  
maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;  
receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;  
initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 in which the data item comprises a video or audio data item.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, in which the act of maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item is performed at a granularity level smaller than an entire disk drive.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising identifying a first set of said read operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising canceling a second set of said read operation requests.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second set of said read operation requests.

43. (Previously Presented) A system for reading a data item from a database, comprising:

means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;

means for receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;

means for initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a volatile or non-volatile medium readable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process of reading a data item from a database, the process comprising:

maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;

receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;

initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.

Claims 45-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 in which the data item comprises a video or audio data item.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 60 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 60 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44, in which the act of maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item is performed at a granularity level smaller than an entire disk drive.
64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising identifying a first set of said read operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.
65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64, further comprising canceling a second set of said read operation requests.
66. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64, further comprising ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second set of said read operation requests.
67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43 in which the data item comprises a video or audio data item.
68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.
69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.
70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, in which the means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item is performed at a granularity level smaller than an entire disk drive.
71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, further comprising a means for identifying a first set of said read operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.
72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, further comprising a means for canceling a second set of said read operation requests.
73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, further comprising a means for ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second set of said read operation requests.